

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 AF-06 IO-10 SAM-01

AID-05 ACDA-05 A-01 OPR-02 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OC-05 CCO-00 SY-05

SCA-01 OMB-01 CU-02 SCCT-01 /101 W

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P 111245Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL OPORTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 697

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

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REF: OPORTO 269

1. SOME 25,000 SOCIALISTS (PS) TURNED OUT LAST NIGHT TO HEAR MARIO SOARES IN DOWNTOWN OPORTO, THEY WERE JOINED BY POPULAR DEMOCRAT (PPD) AND MONARCHIST (PPM) ELEMENTS WHOSE FLAGS WERE CLEARLY VISIBLE THROUGHOUT THE DEMONSTRATION. THERE WAS LITTLE DIRECT REFERENCE BY ANY OF THE PS SPEAKERS TO THE BLOODY CLASH WHICH OCCURRED TWO NIGHTS EARLIER FOLLOWING A PPD RALLY. HOWEVER THE MOOD WAS CLEARLY ONE OF GROWING CONFRONTATION. MANY YOUNG SOCIALISTS ARRIVED WITH CHAINS, CLUBS AND KNIVES.

2. COMMUNIST AND EXTREME LEFTIST ELEMENTS WHO ALSO GATHERED IN THE SAME SQUARE AS THE PS RALLY BEAT AN EARLY RETREAT ACROSS THE RIVER AND DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE ARTILLERY REGIMENT (RASP) QUARTERS STILL CONTROLLED BY DISSIDENT SUV TROOPS. SOME LEFTIST MILITANTS STAYED BEHIND TO GUARD DOWNTOWN COMMUNIST INSTALLATIONS, PARTICULARLY UNIAO DEMOCRATICA POPULAR (UDP) OFFICE NEAR RALLY WHICH RESULTED IN CONTINUED SCUFFLING AS THE EVENING WORE ON SOARES' SPEECH WAS INTERRUPTED SEVERAL TIMES BY EXPLOSIONS AND SINGLE SHOTS.

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PS ORGANIZERS MADE CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS TO KEEP THEIR SUPPORTERS

CALM AND COLLECTED BUT SOME PS MILITANTS WERE OUT TO PROVE THEIR METTLE JOINED WITH PPD YOUTHS WHO WANTED REVENGE.

3. RALLY ENDED WITH NOW RETUALISTIC MARCH OF OVER 10,000 PAST MILITARY DRIVING TRAINING CENTER (CICAP) TO CHEER LOYAL SOLDIERS AND IN FRONT OF NORTHERN MILITARY (RMN) HEADQUARTERS WHERE SOARES MET WITH RMN COMMANDER BG VELOSO. CROWD URGED VELOSO TO "ACT AND THROW THE RABBLE OUT ON THE STREET."

4. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE ACTION MEANWHILE IN FRONT OF UDP OFFICE WHICH CONTINUED TO COME UNDER ATTACK BY ROCK-THROWING ANTI COMMUNISTS. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS, LEFTIST UDP DEFENDERS USED AUTOMATIC WEAPONS (G-3) AND GERNADES WHICH CAUSED NUMEROUS CASULTIES. A SOURCE AT THE HOSPITAL TOLD ME OVER 50 WOUNDED WERE BROUGHT IN AS OF 2:00AM. POLICE AND ARMY (OPORTO 6TH CAVALRY) WITH TRIED TO RESTORE ORDER WITH ARMoured CARS UDP DEFENDERS WERE EVACUATED AT 3:00AM AND UDP OFFICE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TRASHED TOGETHER WITH NEARBY HEADQUARTERS OF ORGANIZACAO COMMUNISTA MARIXISTA LENNINISTA PORTUGUESA (OCMLP). ANTI-COMMUNISTS ALSO HIT OFFICES OF FRENTE ELEITORAL DE COMMUNISTAS (FEC) AND BRUNED COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA STALLS IN DOWNTOWN SQUARE.

5. ALL PARTIES ARE NOW TRADING CLAIMS AS TO RESPONSIBILITY FOR LATEST CONFRONTATION. TOTAL CASULTY LIST IS OVER 60 WOUNDED. NO DEATHS REPORTED. LAST NIGHTS FIGHTING STILL LEAVES UNRESOLVED CURRENT STALEMATE BETWEEN DISSIDENT SUV TROOPS AND BG. VELOSO. NO CHANGE NOTED TODAY AT RASP QUARTERS EXCEPT FOR ADDITION OF A FEW MORE RED FLAGS. NO ONE I TALKED TO TODAY WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. HOWEVER FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST NO POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE SCHEDULED RALLIES IN OPORTO. PENNER

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